

May 8, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on May 8, 2018, in the Leadership Conference Room of the James Kaden Administrative Offices, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: Board Members:

President
Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Carey
Mr. Bronson
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools
Asst. Supt. for Business & District Operations
Deputy Superintendent
Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum
Personnel Administrator
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Dr. Centamore
Dr. Harris
Dr. Bloom
Mr. Fallon
Mrs. McLean

Not Present: Mr. Sidney Joyner, Board Member

Call to Order: Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence for Mark Natale: Mr. Ciappetta shared the sad news of the passing of a proud Wildcat, district employee and American patriot, Mark Natale. Mr. Ciappetta added that Mark graduated from Walt Whitman High School in June of 1980 and attended Suffolk Community College and then joined the New York Police Department, where he served from January of 1985 to January of 2005. Mark had been a first responder on 9/11 at Ground Zero. He stood guard at the gates around Ground Zero in the days that followed. For four months after the attack, Mark worked in lower Manhattan at the point from which barges left on route to Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island. Upon his retirement in 2005, he started working as a security guard at WWHS, and he worked in that job until last year. Mark passed away due to cancer that was certified as related to his exposure to toxins at Ground Zero. He is survived by his wife, Mayra, son Dominick, and daughters Catherine and Lauren. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the flags were lowered district-wide in

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honor of Mark's memory and will remain lowered until after his burial on Wednesday. He asked that everyone in the audience join him in a moment of silence to honor Mark's life and to grieve his passing.

**Public Hearing of the
2018/2019 Budget:**

Dr. Bennardo shared the budget development process. The revenues for the 2018/2019 were identified as follows:

- Tax Revenue of \$114,599,696
- State-Aid Revenue of \$37,362,297
- Other Revenue of \$8,756,400

Also shown was the total use of reserves/additional fund balance of \$4,887,282. Dr. Bennardo also shared that the use of reserves was what the State Comptroller directed districts to do, although Dr. Bennardo cautioned that we must be prudent and replenishment when we can. Dr. Bennardo reported that the 2018/2019 budget was a current services plan; simply put, staffing and programs remain at the same levels as the 2017/2018 school year with all accompanying salaries and benefits computed at next year's rates. Dr. Bloom reviewed the instructional planning for 2018/2019, as he had done during previous budget work sessions.

Dr. Bennardo spoke of the \$1,000,000 in transfer to capital funds for planned site maintenance and capital improvements and \$218,000 for the purchase of one large propane bus and two mini buses. A review of the K-12 classroom size projections was completed by Dr. Bennardo that reflected a steadiness similar to the current school year. Goals for the 2018/2019 were also reviewed—continuing to strive for excellence, enhancing opportunities and meeting the needs of all students, closing the achievement gap, continuity of programs, strengthening community partnerships and fiscal sustainability.

Dr. Centamore reviewed the total budget for the 2018/2019 school year as follows:

\$170,505,675 with a tax levy increase of 2.15%--a tax levy cap compliant budget. The updated tax rate estimated increase of 2.63%, approximately \$18.83 per month on the average home.

Dr. Centamore addressed the two property propositions. Proposition No. 2 on the ballot was for the sale of obsolete property on Depot Road for \$150,000. Proposition No. 3 pertained to the use of the sale proceeds from Proposition No. 2 used to off-set a portion of the \$365,000 cost to purchase land adjacent to Stimson Middle School with the remaining costs coming from fund balance (OPEB). This property would be earmarked for future additional parking and field utilization. The parking when the middle school was used for events had become quite problematic in the last several years with cars parked on Oakwood Road, including the medium that separated Oakwood Road from the homes on that street. The specific language for each proposition was reviewed.

Dr. Bennardo concluded the Public Hearing of the Budget announcing the May

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15th Budget Vote and Elections from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Walt Whitman High School.

National Anthem: Mr. Ciappetta introduced high school student Heather Aadal, who sang the National Anthem beautifully in a cappella fashion.

Adoption of the Agenda: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the agenda be adopted.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:

Minutes: Minutes of Board meeting held on March 28, 2018.

Bids: The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1374-1380.

Schedule #19-63

Miscellaneous Security Alarms Maintenance/Repairs

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General (A)	Warrant 103	\$1,859,825.39
	School Lunch	Warrant 43	\$42.00
	Special Aid	Warrant 44	\$16,675.00
	Capital Checking	Warrant 28	\$9,677.33

Approved – Weekly Packet April 27, 2018

General (A)	Warrant 100	\$331,434.57
	Warrant 101	\$28,444.00
	Warrant 102	\$1,042.00
	V000	(\$209.80)
	V095	(\$200.00)
	V100	(\$385.00)
	School Lunch	Warrant 42
Special Aid	Warrant 43	\$5,563.31
Capital Checking	Warrant 27	\$29,740.84

Approved – Weekly Packet April 20, 2018

General (A)	Warrant 97	\$1,480,985.25
	Warrant 98	\$371,300.71
	Warrant 99	\$65,738.00
School Lunch	Warrant 40	\$47,864.78
	Warrant 41	\$99.00
Special Aid	Warrant 41	\$204.04
	Warrant 42	\$38,401.20
Capital Checking	Warrant 26	\$25,400.98

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**Vote on Minutes
through Schedule of
Bills (Warrants):**

Mr. Ciappetta asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items, and then called for a vote on the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Communications:

1. Letter of Appreciation to President Ciappetta from student Andrew Ferreri for the opportunity to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition Dean's List Award in Detroit
2. Letter of Appreciation from WS BOCES re Support of Administrative Budget Vote and Trustee Candidates
3. Invitation to Board of Education to Countrywood's Retirement Party Honoring Principal Barbara Kenney, Dominique Harrington and Janet Stone, June 7, 2018
4. Family Service League Invitation to Moving Up Ceremonies and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Graduations, June 22, 2018

**Resolution for the
Dedication of the
Coach Vin Altebrando
Wrestling Room:**

With sadness, Mr. Ciappetta reported that three weeks ago our South Huntington community suffered a sudden and deeply painful loss, leaving many stunned and heartbroken. Mr. Ciappetta added that many tried to make sense of the senseless—how a man who touched so many and devoted himself so completely to our most treasured assets could be taken at such a young age, when he had so much left to give. In the days that followed, our community grieved for Coach Vin's wife and high school sweetheart Kristie, and his four beautiful daughters, Anjelia, Gionna, Natalia, and Mirabella. We grieved for the many students, parents, and athletes that had been touched by his kindness and compassion during his 20-plus years of teaching and tenure as a varsity wrestling coach, badminton coach, middle school football coach, and Wildcat Sports Camp Director. Mr. Ciappetta stated that we also grieved for future students who will be deprived of the opportunity to be taught, mentored and coached by him. Mr. Ciappetta further shared that during the grieving process, something beautiful occurred—something that reminded us how wonderful our community was—the South Huntington spirit exposed itself as more than 3,000 people came to pay their respects. Additionally, tens of thousands of dollars were raised for Vin's wife and daughters. What a proud moment it was when 2,000 residents, students, parents and friends gathered in perfect silence in the North Gymnasium for a tribute to Coach Vin's life and legacy. Mr. Ciappetta added that for those that were there, they witnessed what was the most amazing scene Mr. Ciappetta had ever witnessed in his years in South Huntington—as a student, employee and board member—when 2,000 people assembled in the high school circle with lit candles marching towards his home away from home. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the image of that moment was impossible to forget, and in that moment, he was never prouder of his community. Mr. Ciappetta, with deep sadness, stated that it will be impossible to forget Coach Vin and the impact he had. In conclusion, Mr. Ciappetta reminded the audience that to truly honor his memory, we should all smile more, love our loved ones more, do more random acts of kindness, be less judgmental, volunteer more often, and remember that life is precious and fragile, and that time was our most valuable commodity.

High school senior Thomas DeGaetano addressed the audience and shared that for the past five years he had gone to the same room off the South Gymnasium.

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**Resolution for the
Dedication of the
Coach Vin Altebrando
Wrestling Room:**

He explained that the wrestling room was a unique room, in that no other sport maintained itself to one room. It was not unusual that some students did not wish to be there at the time, while some did, yet the room itself was such a personal space for wrestlers. Thomas explained that Coach Altebrando meant everything to him—the relationship between the coach and wrestlers was like no other. Thomas shared that dedicating the wrestling room in Coach Altebrando's memory was an honor that he richly deserved.

SHTA President Dennis Callahan spoke next; he shared that Vince was one of the first people he met when he started at Walt Whitman High School. Mr. Callahan spoke of the importance of a teacher inside the classroom, however, he added that the real moments of teaching can occur outside of the classroom, and this was the impact that Coach Altebrando had on our students—he embodied that concept. Mr. Callahan stated that today, May 8th, was Teacher Appreciation Day, and to honor him today was the epitome of what the day signified. Mr. Callahan believed that the dedication of the wrestling room in Coach Vince Altebrando's honor reflected the impact that he had on the district as a community.

Junior Varsity Wrestling Coach Chris Cardella addressed the Board, Cabinet and audience and thanked everyone for being here and how important it was to the wrestling family. Coach Cardella spoke of what Coach Altebrando meant to the wrestlers—past and present. He could think of no better way to honor him than to dedicate the wrestling room after him.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked those that spoke so tenderly of Coach Altebrando. He then introduced high school student Pamela Carey and Max Peretson who performed the Beatles classic "There Are Places I Remember" that touched the hearts of everyone present. Mr. Ciappetta stated that it was obvious that what we had seen here will not be forgotten—it was something permanent that will last for eternity. Mr. Ciappetta asked for a motion to rename the wrestling room to the Coach Vince Altebrando Wrestling Room.

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the dedication of the Walt Whitman High School Wrestling Room to the Coach Vince Altebrando Wrestling Room.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nitkewicz addressed Mrs. Altebrando and the wrestlers in the audience and shared that it was beautiful to be a part of the vigils. Mr. Nitkewicz expressed his appreciation for Coach Altebrando in the manner in which he interacted with the special education students. He explained that not everyone had the ability to do so, but Coach did, and did it extremely well.

Mr. Ciappetta called for a five-minute break; he also shared that in the fall the physical dedication of the wrestling room would take place.

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**Donation of the
School Lunch
Program Carts:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of the school lunch program cart from General Foods valued at \$2,500.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Buhse spoke of the generous donation, which actually ended up being two carts. The first cart, when received, was damaged—yet still very operable. However, the sales person from General Foods orchestrated a replacement of that cart, but did not wish to take back the damaged cart. Mrs. Buhse offered \$250 to purchase the damaged cart, and the offer was accepted. Mrs. Buhse explained that her plan was to use the carts at the high school for “breakfast after the bell” where between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. the carts would have simple samplings, such as breakfast bars and fruit, for students who did not have an opportunity for breakfast.

Dr. Bennardo reported that he overheard a conversation whereby compliments were provided to the quality of the School Lunch Office’s catering. He added how it pleased him to hear this and gave credit to Mrs. Buhse’s leadership.

**Approval of the Chris
Maher Memorial
Helpful Citizenship
Award:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Chris Maher Memorial Helpful Citizenship Award provided by Mrs. Alice D’Addario, in the amount of \$100, for a graduating senior with at least a 75 GPA who is college bound or planning on attending a trade school.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the
Wildcat Booster Club
Donation:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation from the Wildcat Booster Club as follows:

Whitman Gymnastics—Springboard and chalk holder;
Stimson Middle School—An outdoor Water Horse (multi-user/team water fountain); these items amounting to \$1,700;
Walt Whitman High School—A fully-automated Pixellot camera system enabling live stream events on the turf field including sports and graduation; purchased items include the Pixelott camera, laptop computer for operation; installation of camera; point-to-point internet satellite dish for internet connection; metal cabinet to secure computer; and software for the manual operation of hand-held cameras, for a total donation for materials and labor of \$8,500; Booster Club to pay \$3,000 licensing fees for a total of \$13,200 donated to the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta expressed his gratitude to Booster Club President Jayne O’Toole and asked that the Board’s appreciation be extended to the members of the Booster Club. Mrs. O’Toole added that the South Huntington School District

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will be a leader on Long Island as the first school district to own this system.

**Approval of the L.I.
Finest Homes
Platinum Properties
Donation:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the \$1,250 donation from Platinum Properties for the sponsorship of the district's newsletter, Spotlight. Be it Further Resolved, as this monetary donation is for a specific purpose, the budget code utilized for Spotlight will be increased accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

CEO of Platinum Properties Mr. Jonas Wagner added that in addition to this donation, a donation in the amount of \$550 from a recent home sale will be donated to SHEF at their next meeting.

**Approval of Contract
Extensions:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the following contract extensions, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1381-1412.

Schedule #19-14	Fleet Extensions
Schedule #19-17	Refuse and Recycling Collection
Schedule #19-20	Summer Transportation
Schedule #19-23	Towing Services
Schedule #19-26	Sand with 20% Rock Salt
Schedule #19-30	Student Agenda Books
Schedule #19-36	Bus Attendant/Driver Assistant
Schedule #19-52-1	Miscellaneous Asphalt/Concrete Services
Schedule #19-55	Pneumatic Temperature Controls
Schedule #19-66	Vehicle Body Work/Painting (R)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Purchasing Agent's
Attendance at
Conference:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the travel and conference for the Purchasing Agent to attend the School Nutrition Association Conference from July 7, 2018, through July 12, 2018, in Las Vegas, Nevada, with all costs being paid from the School Lunch budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations for
Placement by
CSE/CPSE:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated March 1, 5, 6, 8, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, April 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, May 1, 2018, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 12, and April 5, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 26, 2018, is satisfied that the procedures of Chapter 853 of the Education Law were followed and accepts the recommendations for placement set forth, copies made part of these legal

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minutes, pp. 1413-1446.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed the recommendations of the Chief School Administrator, is satisfied that the provisions of Section 3012 of Education Law were followed, and thereby accepts those recommendations as set forth in schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1447-1459, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 6: Summer School Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 8: Re-Employment to Positions (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 10: Tenure Appointments

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19: Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta shared that Schedule 2 contains noteworthy mention of Mr. Corey Blair's appointment from Administrative Dean to Assistant Principal for Guidance effective July 1, 2018.

Information and Reports:

1. The Long-Islander re Passing of Coach Vin Altebrando
2. Condolence Letter from Suffolk CC re Passing of Coach Vin Altebrando
3. Ingerman Smith Memorandum re Establishment of a Charitable Fund
4. Student Congratulatory Letter re Huntington Youth Writes Contest from Superintendent
5. Student Congratulatory Letter re "Annie" Production from Superintendent
6. Staff/Crew Congratulatory Letter re "Annie" Production from Superintendent
7. Cast Congratulatory Letter re "Annie" Production from Superintendent
8. Personnel Postings
9. Oakwood Principal's May Newsletter
10. Countrywood Chronicle for May

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 27, 2018

1. Audit Committee Agenda for May 1, 2018
2. Facilities Committee Agenda for May 1, 2018
3. Thank You Letter re Raymour and Flanigan Fundraiser
4. Student Congratulatory Letter re L.I. Science Congress from Principal Murphy
5. Student Recognition Letter re Sr. Class Lip Sync from Principal Murphy
6. SHTA Executive Board Minutes from April 23, 2018
7. Personnel Postings

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Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 20, 2018

1. Ingerman Smith Memorandum re Public Employees' Fair Employment Act
2. Ingerman Smith Memorandum re Real Property Tax Law Section 458
3. Letter to Superintendent re L.I. Council for Social Studies-Rachel Cymbalista
4. Minithon Invitation from Dr. Wright to Board and Cabinet Members
5. Thank You Letter to Jane Samuels from Dr. Harris re Health & Wellness Fair
6. Thank You Letter to Dr. Mitchell from Dr. Harris re Health & Wellness Fair
7. Personnel Posting
8. SHTA Executive Board Minutes from April 9, 2018
9. Parent University Packet

Committee Updates: Mr. Ciappetta reported that there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, May 14, 2018, in the newly refurbished Student Services Office at Walt Whitman at 12 noon.

Comments from Board Members and Staff: Mr. Ciappetta shared that today was Teacher Appreciation Day and how much impact a teacher can make in a student's life. The tribute to Coach Vince Altebrando was evidence of that. He recalled his godmother, who had inspired him to seek elected office. She sadly passed away from a car accident many years ago, and what had touched him at her funeral was the overflow of students who attended the services. Current students, and also students that she taught some 20 years prior, came to pay their respects. Teaching, Mr. Ciappetta added, was a profession that was not fleeting, but rather long lasting and genuine. The relationship that he had with his aunt motivated him to pursue public service, which he found to be extremely rewarding. Mr. Ciappetta stated that it was his honor to work beside so many fine teachers and publicly asked Mr. Callahan to let them know how much they were appreciated. Mr. Ciappetta sadly shared that while we no longer have Vince Altebrando with us, we have so many teachers ready to pick up his fine legacy.

Voice of the Residents: Visitors were invited to participate.

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1374 through 1459.